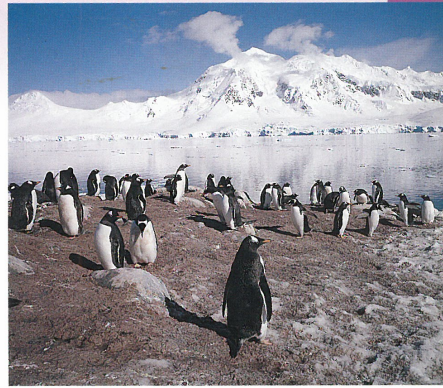


# ANTARCTICA

**A**ntarctica is the continent surrounding the South Pole. It is the coldest, windiest and iciest place in the world! It is also very isolated, as the map shows.

No people live in Antarctica permanently. Scientists work in the research stations. Some are studying the effects of our climate warming up. Everything that is needed has to be brought in during the short summer. From November to January, icebreakers can reach the land, but huge icebergs are always a danger. In winter (from May to July) it is always dark, the sea is frozen, and people have to face extreme cold and dangerous blizzards.

No-one 'owns' Antarctica. The Antarctic Treaty ensures that the continent should only be used for scientific research. This means it should remain peaceful for ever. The flags of the 46 nations that have signed the treaty stand in a ring round the South Pole, near the USA's Amundsen-Scott base. Even Antarctica has more and more tourists visiting the area every year.



## ANTARCTICA FACTS

Fifth largest continent – 14,100,000 sq km;  
**World record** for coldest temperature;  
 Surrounded by cold seas;  
 South Pole **first** reached in 1911;  
 At the South Pole all lines of longitude meet and every direction is **NORTH**.

▲ **Rookery of Gentoo Penguins in Antarctica.** Penguins cannot fly, but they can swim very well. The parents use their feet to protect the eggs and chicks from the cold ice! No land animals live in Antarctica, but the ocean is full of fish, which provide food for penguins, seals and whales.

